



Newsletter

January 2024

Philadelphia Dog Training Club

A Word from the President

Your Board has been working behind the scenes to continually improve our club.

The upcoming trial in May will be Obedience only. We had hoped to add a Rally competition this year, but the AKC has a rule about trials not being within 100 miles of each other. Unfortunately, another club beat us to the date for their Rally trial. But:

1) You can still take PDTC rally classes offered on Tuesday nights. It is a fun sport and is enjoyed by both humans and dogs alike. Originally it was part of Obedience and now Rally is its own separate sport.

2) We are looking into the possibility of holding a

second trial for Rally later in the year. This will mean more opportunities to volunteer and help the club earn a little income.

Another thing your board is looking into is a Club get-together so we can get to know one another outside our training sessions. This will probably be held at a restaurant sometime this April and include the annual awards.

I wish everyone a healthy New Year with lots of new titles and closer bonds with your dogs. Remember to send your stories to our editor ellsworthdogs@gmail.com for the newsletter.

Report from our Training Coordinator

Sue's Kenzie, Tory and Cody

This is the Clan Anderson annual Christmas morning picture. It looks like Santa has their attention.



The week of January 22nd starts our first session of classes for 2024. Please check the Class Calendar on our website, as some class days and times have changed.

Loretta Cleveland will be teaching a 6 week class in Tricks, with the goal of helping our dogs achieve their Novice Trick Dog (TKN) titles(and have some fun in class too!) As with the CGC, dogs must be registered with the AKC to add the title to their name.

We are planning to have Loretta teach another new class in the next 6 week session, called Fetch. That too can result in a new title, Fetch Novice (FTN).

A Look at Our History

I recently learned that long-time member Edward "Terry" Coughlin passed away in Massachusetts. Terry and his wife Judy, although not founding members in 1938, joined not long after. Judy served on the Board, as President, Treasurer and for years as the Class Registrar. They were also both involved in many years of our trials. Terry served as our delegate to the AKC for over 25 years. They had both German Shepherds and Pembroke Welsh Corgis and achieved many confirmation and obedience titles with them. When I joined the club in the 1990's they were no longer actively training but remained involved in many other ways. Judy passed away in 2016 and the club awarded her the AKC Good Sportsmanship Award. In the past six years Terry would call me several times a year to catch up and to hear how the club was doing. Our club was like family to them. Terry and Judy have made a generous bequest to the Club for which we will be eternally grateful. Our 2024 spring trial will be dedicated to Terry.

-Brenda

Welcome New Members

Samantha and Pebbles

Hi Everyone! My name is Samantha Longacre and my dog Pebbles, and I are very excited to be a part of the club! Pebbles is my first dog outside of my parents' dogs growing up. I picked her breed because our personalities are very similar! We both live very active lifestyles. I was a collegiate golfer and still play frequently. Pebbles has taken to her agility classes and also loves to go hiking with me. I also consider us both to be a bit nerdy. Pebbles is super intelligent and loves learning new things- sometimes I think she's too smart for her own good. I also like learning and just finished my Masters in Organic Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania, and I work for Endo Pharmaceuticals. Pebbles truly is my best bud, and we are looking forward to being a part of this club so she can continue to train me.



Brittany Stivale:

Not many awards to mention; Vader opted for some zoomies during the off-leash part of his Novice routine at the Philadelphia Expo Center, but hey, he's adorable!



Priscilla Iacocca:

Loki is 2 years old.
He is so chill. Happy Birthday!



Reg Speir:

After getting his OTCH, Reg Speir & Wilson have semi-retired from competition, although a foray back into the ring on 10/28 at the S. NJ GSD Club Trial yielded a Utility B win and a High-In-Trial with the retiring Marylou McCloskey as Judge. Also noteworthy, Wilson was just named to the GRCA's OB Hall Of Fame!



Eleanor Campbell:

Tip finished his overall AKC Novice Scentwork title (SWN) at the Kruisin' Kanines trial November 11 and 12.



Julia Vahlsing:

Jack and Maggie got their first titles
(Beginner Novice A) at Oaks 12/10/2023.



Darrell Swank:

Zerk and I have been enjoying a bit of Rally. Zerk scores are the high 90s and 100s. He does everything I ask of him, including ignoring one of the judge's signs. So, the NQ is not his score, but mine. He earned the following titles recently:

Rally Intermediate October 22nd with a perfect score
Lower Camden County DTC

Rally Advanced November 10th at Bayshore Companion DC,
and we qualified to go to the Rally Nationals in the Advanced Class.

Rally Excellent

January 6th at
Burlington County KC

Zerk is the third black GSP to become a champion. Friday December 8th he was select and beat other champions gaining two more points towards his Grand Championship. It was a really exciting day.



Laurie Leevy: Lahdee as Santa's Reindog at CHOP



Charlie Hadden:

Gilly competed at agility for the first time in November. She had 2 runs. In both she had no faults and finished 1st in her height class.



Fiona Simpkins:

Sophie Simpkins
Chen, 18 months
old golden
retriever, trained in
puppy school,
beginner,
intermediate and
advanced at PDTC.
She passed the
International
Therapy Dog test
at the DTC Chester
County on Dec 18.
(twice, once with
each parent
handling).

Thank you PDTC
for all the training
and support.

-Fiona Simpkins

-Dietrich Chen



Joanne Impriano:

Phoebe saw Santa at Pickering Valley Feed in Chester Springs. The store was packed with people, dogs, cats, even a guinea pig and baby draft horse. She was so overstimulated but I was proud of how well she handled herself. All her training at PDTC definitely paid off that day!

I would also like to add that even though she didn't pass her CGC Test in November, I was very pleased with how well she did. She would have passed if she didn't get so bent out of shape when I walked out of the auditorium. Everything else she did perfectly! We are working on that and hope to take the test again.



News from our Members



Beth Hacker:

Rufus and Jäger were on
Santa's good list this
December!



Rufus (6 and a 1/2 years old) earned his CD and VCD1 titles He also earned his overall SWN and NACSW NW1 titles with placements at most trials. Although our obedience career has come to an end, Rufus continues to enjoy scentwork and will be working on advanced and element titles in the new year as well as our other long-range goal: TDX. I am very proud of this boy's versatile accomplishments (always owner-handled)

Jäger (9 months) is just beginning his versatile journey. He recently earned his CGC, has one leg of BN, and one point towards his CH title. He especially loves the agility ring and I look forward to watching this sweet boy develop in obedience, show, agility, tracking and field! We plan to reconnect with our NAVHDA training group and enter NA later this spring.



Sue Anderson:

"Cody" became a champion on Oct. 28th. He is now Ch. Belmark Dauntless and is now working on his Grand Championship. He is finishing Carol's Beginners class and will move into Intermediate next session. His goal, of course, is at least his CGC or CGCA title. He is also taking agility lessons at Y2K9s.

Liz Rogan:

Yippee! Xena earned her 1st ever official title.... in Novice Rally! She also earned the first leg of the Beginner-Novice Obedience title. After all that work, she came home, played hard, and conked out! Once recovered, we'll be up for more Beginner Novice trials... hopefully more to report in the next newsletter!



Important Information

I challenge the membership to send in pictures and stories about “their lives with dogs”. To make it interesting and as an incentive, there will be a prize after the final newsletter of the year. The issues are January, April, July & October.

Here are the rules:

(as of today, subject to change or clarification as time goes by)

- 1) Send in pictures and stories about you and your dog. This can be Trial related such as a new title, some silly thing at home or a fun anecdote while on holiday. Pictures and stories will be published in HEEL at the editor's discretion. The deadline is the 10th of the month the issue is scheduled to come out.
- 2) Vote on you favorite. Send your one vote per issue to ellsworthdogs@gmail.com include the page number and the person's name you are voting for. Votes sent to other emails will not be counted (not even forwarded from another email). More than one vote per email per issue will not be counted. (Please be fair. This is supposed to be fun not serious.)
- 3) After the final issue of the year (October) The person who received the most votes over the year will be the winner.
- 4) The prize has yet to be determined. I believe you will think it is worth it. (Once I come up with something good.)

-Darrell E Swank, Editor HEEL

Send your news and pictures to

ellsworthdogs@gmail.com

Don't wait, send it as soon as it happens, and still fresh in your mind.